

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method in a data processing system for processing a physical transaction, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:

receiving data structures containing information about the physical transactions from a plurality entities performing the physical transactions, wherein the data structures include information about the physical transactions;

updating a database of physical transactions in response to receiving the data structures to form an updated database; and

analyzing the update database to generate statistics about the physical transactions.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

analyzing the statistics to generate projections about future physical transactions.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the physical transactions involved automotive services.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the information includes an item in the physical transaction.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the information includes an identification of a vehicle in the transaction.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the automotive services is at least one of an oil change, a tune up, body work on a vehicle, or an alignment.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of entities are located in different geographic locations.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data structures are received using one of electronic mail messages, a floppy disc, or CD-ROM.

9-17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) A data processing system comprising:
a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and
a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive data structures containing information about the physical transactions from a plurality entities performing the physical transactions in which wherein the data structures include information about the physical transactions. update a database of physical transactions in response to receiving the data structures to form an updated database, and analyze the update database to generate statistics about the physical transactions.

19. (Original) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the bus system is a single bus.

20. (Original) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

21. (Original) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

22. (Original) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) A data processing system for processing a physical transaction, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving data structures containing information about the physical transactions from a plurality entities performing the physical transactions, wherein the data structures include information about the physical transactions;

updating means for updating a database of physical transactions in response to receiving the data structures to form an updated database; and

analyzing means for analyzing the update database to generate statistics about the physical transactions.

25. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24 wherein the analyzing means is a first analyzing means further comprising:

second analyzing means for analyzing the statistics to generate projections about future physical transactions.

26. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the physical transactions involved automotive services.

27. (Original) The data processing system of claim 26, wherein the information includes an item in the physical transaction.

28. (Original) The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the information includes an identification of a vehicle in the transaction.

29. (Original) The data processing system of claim 26, wherein the automotive services is at least one of an oil change, a tune up, body work on a vehicle, or an alignment.

30. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of entities are located in different geographic locations.

31. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the data structures are received using one of electronic mail messages, a floppy disc, or CD-ROM.

32-40. (Canceled)

41. (Original) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in processing a physical transaction, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving data structures containing information about the physical transactions from a plurality entities performing the physical transactions, wherein the data structures include information about the physical transactions;

second instructions for updating a database of physical transactions in response to receiving the data structures to form an updated database; and

third instructions for analyzing the update database to generate statistics about the physical transactions.

42-43. (Canceled)